



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Pet License and Animal Shelter Fees

MEETING DATE: April 5, 1995

SUBMITTED BY: Finance Director

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution No95-44 to set pet license and animal control fees.

BACKGROUND

The City Council adopted Ordinance No. 1608 on March 15, 1995 to regulate and control animals in the City of Lodi and to allow license, control and permit fees. Under the City Council's budget policy, fees are to be set subject to the following general objectives:

- Revenues normally will not exceed the reasonable cost of providing services.
- Cost recovery goals should be based on the total cost of delivering the service.
- The method of assessing and collecting fees should be as simple as possible.
- Fee surveys should never be the sole or primary criteria in setting fees.

With this criteria the City Council may establish the cost recovery level by determining the level of benefit and who benefits. If the service is a general public benefit which serves the needs of the City's general tax payer, the City Council should set a low cost recovery goal. If the service is a benefit for a limited number of City residents or exists to serve individual needs, the City Council should set a higher cost recovery goal.

DISCUSSION

The current fee schedule (Exhibit A) was set in December 1946 for pet licenses and in 1982 for animal redemption fees. The proposed license and fee schedule is based on the ordinance adopted by the City Council in March 1995 and the services provided by the City for pet owners. The City Council is given three options on which to recover the cost of the animal control program. The current cost of providing animal control service is \$93,200 per year. Current revenues are \$11,900 per year. The City licenses 3,350 pets.

- Option 1. Provides for 80% to 100% recovery of direct program costs assuming 8,250 pet licenses and other fees.

APPROVED: _____

Thomas A. Peterson

THOMAS A. PETERSON
City Manager



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Option 2. Provides for 40% to 60 % recovery of direct program costs (same assumptions).

Option 3. Provides for 10% to 30% recovery of direct program costs (Same assumptions).

High Cost Recovery Goal

The City's animal control program exists to control personal pets and to insure that these pets do not cause a public nuisance or health hazard. The ownership of pets in an urban area is for the comfort and enjoyment of the owner. To accommodate pet owners, the City spends approximately \$93,200 per year to insure pets are controlled and so not become a public nuisance. As such, it is the responsibility of pet owners to finance the cost of providing this service and not the general taxpayer.

Low Cost Recovery Goal

The City's animal control program exists to protect residents from irresponsible pet owners and to insure that pets do not become a public health and safety hazard. As such, it is in the general tax payers interest to enforce the pet control ordinance and the program should be funded with general fund tax revenues.

Community Support

At least one community support group (Animal Friends Connection) has recommended an increase in pet license fees as a measure to control animal population and to finance additional services. The Animal Friends Connection has offered to provide volunteer time to this end. However, to do this, City staff will recommend that part-time hours be authorized in future budgets to hire an administrative clerk to assist the Animal Control Officers in managing the City's Animal Pound and to coordinate the activities of these volunteers. This may cost the City as much as \$25,000 per year in additional part-time salary. If paid for by the increase in fees, the City will be able to provide the residents of Lodi with a quality service which can be expanded beyond the current "catch and hold" practice at the Pound.


BENEFITS

The increase in recommended fees will provide the City with the following benefits:

- Reduce the City's subsidy for animal control services
- Establish fees consistent with surrounding jurisdictions
- Create an incentive for neutering animals

FUNDING

Staff will request \$25,000 in part time salary in the 1995-97 Financial Plan and Budget.


Dixon Flynn
Finance Director

Prepared by: Maxine Cadwallader, Revenue Manager

ANIMAL CONTROL FEE SCHEDULE

	Current Fees	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Pet Licenses				
Spayed Dogs	\$2/Yr			
Male Dogs	\$2/Yr			
Female Dogs	\$4/Yr			
Cats	\$1/Yr			
Neutered/Spayed Dogs/Cats		\$9/Yr	\$5/Yr	\$3/Yr
Other Dogs/Cats		\$18/Yr	\$10/Yr	\$6/Yr

Estimated Revenues	\$ 74,250	\$ 41,250	\$ 24,750
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Other Fees

Pet Store Permit	None	\$60/Yr	\$50/Yr	\$40/Yr
Animal Disposal	None	\$25	\$20	\$15
Spay/Neuter Fee	None	Cost	Cost	Cost
Identification Tag Replacement	\$0.50	Cost	Cost	Cost

Estimated Revenues	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
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Pound Fees

Redemption Fees				
1st Offence	\$5	\$12	\$10	\$8
2nd Offence	\$10	\$24	\$20	\$16
3rd Offence	\$15	\$30	\$25	\$20
Boarding				
Dogs	\$1.50/Day	\$4/Day	\$4/Day	\$4/Day
Cats	\$1.50/Day	\$3/Day	\$3/Day	\$3/Day

Estimated Revenues	\$ 15,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 10,000
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Total Estimated Revenues	\$89,750	\$53,750	\$35,250
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RESOLUTION NO. 95-46

A RESOLUTION OF THE LODI CITY COUNCIL
SETTING PET LICENSE FEES AND OTHER
ANIMAL CONTROL FEES

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 1604 as a measure to control and regulate pets and other animals in the City of Lodi; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the pet license fees and other animal control fees should recover in part or whole the City cost of providing animal control services; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined pet license fees should be set to create an incentive for neutering animals.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council as follows:

1. Pet license fees and other animal control fees listed on Exhibit A are hereby adopted.
2. Late penalties charged for payment of fees are hereby set at 20% per month and may be waived by the Finance Director on application for good cause.

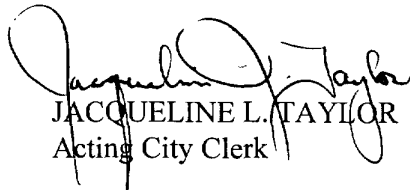
Dated: April 5, 1995

I hereby certify that Resolution No. 95-46 was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Lodi in a regular meeting held April 5, 1995 by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members - Pennino, Sieglock, Warner

NOES: Council Members - Davenport, Mann (Mayor)

ABSENT: Council Members - None


JACQUELINE L. TAYLOR
Acting City Clerk

ANIMAL CONTROL FEE SCHEDULE (Resolution 95-46 dated April 5, 1995)

Pet Licenses

- | | |
|---|---------|
| * Neutered/Spayed Dogs/Cats/Potbellied Pigs | \$5/Yr |
| * Other Dogs/Cats/Potbellied Pigs | \$10/Yr |

Other Fees

Animal Disposal	\$25
Spay/Neuter Fee	Cost
Identification Tag Replacement	Cost

Pound Fees

Redemption Fees

1st Offence	\$12
2nd Offence	\$24
3rd Offence	\$30
Boarding	
Dogs	\$4/Day
Cats	\$3/Day

- * Only Potbellied Pigs within the City limits of Lodi on or before March 15, 1995 may be licensed